

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

June 2012  
**FACT SHEET**  
**Authorization to Discharge under the**  
**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System**  
**for the**  
**Cameron Trading Post**  
**NPDES Permit No. NN0021610**

Applicant Address: Cameron Trading Post  
P.O. Box 1796  
Sedona, Arizona 86339

Applicant Contact: Randy Sosin, Operator  
(928) 282-8528

Facility Address: Cameron Trading Post Wastewater Treatment Plant  
466 Highway 89 at the Little Colorado  
Cameron, Arizona 86020

Facility Contact: Carl Colson, General Manager  
(800) 338-7385

**I. Summary**

Cameron Trading Post was issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) Permit (No. NN0021610) on August 20, 2007, for its wastewater treatment lagoon facility, pursuant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“U.S. EPA”) regulations set forth in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”) Part 122.21. The permit was effective August 23, 2007, through midnight, August 22, 2012. The permittee applied to U.S. EPA Region 9 for reissuance on December 15, 2011. The facility is on private land surrounded by the Navajo Nation and therefore, is not under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe. All the terms and conditions of the 2007 permit are in effect until the reissuance of a new permit. This fact sheet is based on information provided by the applicant through its application and discharge data submittal, along with the appropriate laws and regulations.

Pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (“CWA”), the U.S. EPA is proposing issuance of the NPDES permit renewal to Cameron Trading Post (“permittee”) for the discharge of treated domestic wastewater to the Little Colorado River segment within the Navajo Nation, a water of the United States.

**II. Description of Facility**

The Cameron Trading Post wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) is located off of Highway 89 in Cameron, on private land that is surrounded by the Navajo Nation reservation in Coconino County, Arizona, at latitude 35° 52' 37.8" North and longitude 111° 25' 01.4" West (Township 29N, Range 9E, Section 22). The facility services a full-time population equivalent

of 660 comprising of a store, restaurant, lodge, gas station, post office, and nearby mobile homes, and receives only domestic sewage with a design flow rate of 0.066 million gallons per day (“MGD”). According to information provided in the December 2011 permit renewal application, the facility’s average discharge flows were 0.028 MGD, 0.026 MGD and 0.025 MGD in 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively. The maximum daily flow rates were 0.054 MGD, 0.042 MGD and 0.038 MGD in 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively. Peak flows reportedly occur during the busy tourist season in July and August. A lower flow capacity basis of 0.054 MGD was used in determining the permit limits in both 2001 and 2007 permits, and for consistency purposes, EPA continues to apply the 0.054 MGD maximum flow for this period cycle.

The facility includes a Parshall Flume and laser flow recorder, a splitter box, three (3) activated sludge aeration tanks with each connected to a corresponding secondary clarifier and digester, two (2) sludge holding tanks, three (3) sludge drying beds, two (2) drying beds for turning semi-solid to solid sludge, and six (6) ultraviolet light disinfection units. Sludge emptied from the drying beds are picked up and hauled off to a landfill in Flagstaff. All or a portion of the effluent undergoes sand filtration and ultraviolet disinfection prior to discharge to the outfall. The facility does not have an effluent flow meter installed for either stream or the effluent, and the flow volume reported in the DMRs is reportedly from influent flow meter data. The discharge outfall is located approximately a half a mile downstream of the facility and approximately 200 feet before its confluence with the Little Colorado River. Any sampling and monitoring under the proposed permit shall be performed at Outfall No. 1.

### **III. Basis of Proposed Permit Requirements**

#### **A. Applicable Technology-Based Effluent Limitations**

Section 301 of the CWA established a required performance level, referred to as “secondary treatment,” that all POTWs were required to meet by July 1, 1977. Federal secondary treatment effluent standards for POTWs are contained in Section 301(b)(1)(B) of the CWA. Implementing regulations for Section 301(b)(1)(B) are found at 40 CFR Part 133. The CWA requires POTWs to meet performance-based requirements based on available wastewater treatment technology. These technology-based effluent limits apply to all municipal wastewater treatment plants, and identify the minimum level of effluent quality attainable by secondary treatment in terms of BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. The requirements contained in the draft permit are necessary to prevent violations of applicable treatment standards.

#### **B. Navajo Nation Surface Water Quality Standards**

In accordance with 40 CFR 122.44(d), the need for discharge limitations for all pollutants that may impact applicable water quality criteria and water quality standards must be evaluated. As part of this evaluation, discharge limitations are based on application of the water quality standards. Because the facility discharges to a tributary to Navajo Nation waters, EPA applied these Navajo Nation regulations using its best professional judgment (BPJ) to develop limits for this facility. USEPA approved the 1999 Navajo Nation Surface Water Quality Standards (“NNSWQS”), on March 23, 2006. The NNSWQS were revised in 2007 and approved by the EPA on March 26, 2009. A

2010 *draft* NNSWQS revision is currently under review by NNEPA and USEPA. The approved 1999 Navajo Nation water quality standards, the 2007 revision and the 2010 *draft* revisions will be used on a best professional judgment (“BPJ”) basis for purposes of developing water quality based effluent limitations. The requirements contained in the proposed permit are necessary to prevent violations of applicable water quality standards.

**IV. Determination of Effluent Limitations, Monitoring, and Reporting Requirements**

**A. Federal Secondary Treatment Effluent Discharge Limitations**

The proposed permit contains discharge limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>), total suspended solids (TSS) and priority toxic pollutants. For both BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS, the arithmetic means of values, by weight, for effluent samples collected in a period of 30 consecutive calendar days shall not exceed 15 percent of the arithmetic mean of values, by weight, for influent samples collected at approximately the same times during the same period. These BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS limits are identical to those of the previous permit.

Discharge Limitations					
Discharge Parameter	Units	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	Monitoring Frequency
Flow <sup>1</sup>	GPD	-- <sup>2</sup>	n/a	-- <sup>2</sup>	Instantaneous
BOD <sub>5</sub> <sup>3</sup>	mg/l	30	45	--	Monthly
	kg/day	6.08	9.13	--	
TSS <sup>3</sup>	mg/l	30	45	--	Monthly
	kg/day	6.08	9.13	--	
Priority Pollutants <sup>4</sup>	µg/l	n/a	n/a	-- <sup>2</sup>	Once/1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter during Year 5

**NOTES:**

1. No flow limit is set at this time but influent and effluent flows must be monitored and reported. The monitoring frequency is once/month.
2. Monitoring and reporting required. No limitation is set at this time.
3. Under 40 CFR Section 122.45(f), mass limits are required for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. The concentration limits for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS shall not exceed a monthly average of 30 mg/l and a weekly average of 45 mg/l. The mass limits are calculated based upon the 0.054 MGD design flow.
4. Priority Pollutants: During Year 5 of the permit, the permittee shall monitor for the full list of priority pollutants in the Code of Federal Register (CFR) at 40 CFR Part 423, Appendix A. No limit is set at this time.

**B. Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (“WQBELs”)**

Water quality-based effluent limitations, or WQBELs, are required in NPDES permits when the permitting authority determines that a discharge causes, has the

reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an excursion above any water quality standard. [40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)].

When determining whether an effluent discharge causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an excursion above narrative or numeric criteria, the permitting authority shall use procedures which account for existing controls on point and non point sources of pollution, the variability of the pollutant or pollutant parameter in the effluent, the sensitivity of the species to toxicity testing (when evaluating whole effluent toxicity) and where appropriate, the dilution of the effluent in the receiving water [40 CFR 122.44 (d)(1)(ii)].

EPA evaluated the reasonable potential to discharge toxic pollutants according to guidance provided in the *Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control* (TSD) (Office of Water Enforcement and Permits, U.S. EPA, March 1991) and the *U.S. EPA NPDES Permit Writers Manual* (Office of Water, U.S. EPA, December 1996). These factors include:

1. Applicable standards, designated uses and impairments of receiving water
2. Dilution in the receiving water
3. Type of industry
4. History of compliance problems and toxic impacts
5. Existing data on toxic pollutants - Reasonable Potential analysis

1. **Applicable standards, designated uses and impairments of receiving water**

The designated uses of the receiving water (Little Colorado River) as defined by the 2007 NNSWQS and *draft* 2010 NNSWQS revisions, are domestic water supply, primary and secondary human contact, fish consumption, aquatic & wildlife habitat, and livestock watering (Table 205.1, page 20).

2. **Dilution in the receiving water**

Discharge Outfall 001 is to the Little Colorado River, which may have no natural flow during certain times of the year. Therefore, no dilution of the effluent has been considered in the development of water quality based effluent limits applicable to the discharge.

3. **Type of industry**

Typical pollutants of concern in untreated and treated domestic wastewater include ammonia, nitrate, oxygen demand, pathogens, temperature, pH, oil and grease, and solids. Chlorine may also be of concern due to treatment plant disinfection operations and therefore, dechlorination may be necessary to minimize impact on water quality based effluent limits.

4. **History of compliance problems and toxic impacts**

Review of the discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) from October 2008 to December 2011 showed exceedances of BOD<sub>5</sub> in June 2009 and *E.coli* and pH in January 2010. Additionally, the permittee did not submit a DMR in March 2011.

**5. Existing data on toxic pollutants**

No existing data is available on toxic pollutants.

**C. Rationale for WOBELs**

Effluent Parameter	Units	Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	Monitoring Frequency
Total Residual Chlorine <sup>1</sup>	µg/l	--	--	11	Monthly
<i>E. coli</i> <sup>2</sup>	CFU/100 ml	126	--	235	Monthly
Total Ammonia <sup>3</sup> (as N)	mg/l	--	--	--	Monthly
TDS <sup>4</sup>	mg/l	--	--	--	Quarterly
pH <sup>5</sup>	std unit	between 6.5 to 9.0			Monthly
Temperature <sup>6</sup>	deg F	--	--	--	Monthly

NOTES:

- Total Residual Chlorine.** If chlorination is used for disinfection of the effluent, dechlorination is also necessary prior to discharge. No single sample shall exceed 11 µg/l based on the NNSWQS for protection of aquatic & wildlife habitat and livestock watering (Table 206.1, page 32 of the 2007 NNSWQS and 2010 *draft* NNSWQS revisions.) The monitoring frequency has been changed to monthly.
- E. coli*.** In the proposed permit, the monthly geometric mean of *E. coli* bacteria shall not exceed 126/100 ml and 576/100 ml as a single sample maximum. The limits reflect the more stringent standards for protection of domestic and primary human contact (page 14 of 2007 NNSWQS and 2010 *draft* NNSWQS revisions.)
- Total Ammonia.** In accordance with the 2007 NNSWQS and 2010 *draft* NNSWQS revisions for acute and chronic ammonia limits for protection of aquatic and wildlife habitat, the proposed permit contains effluent limitations for total ammonia. The ammonia limits are temperature and pH dependent and are listed in Table 206.2 and Table 206.3, pages 36-37 of 2007 NNSWQS and 2010 *draft* NNSWQS revisions. The monitoring frequency is set at monthly.
- Total Dissolved Solids.** No limit is proposed but the regulations at 40 CFR 122.44(i) set forth requirements for monitoring as determined to be necessary. This requirement is consistent with the previous permit.

5. **pH.** To ensure adherence to the minimum and maximum pH levels designated by the Navajo Nation for the receiving water, monthly pH monitoring is required in the permit for protection of domestic, primary and secondary human contact, and aquatic & wildlife habitat and livestock watering (page 15 of 2007 NNSWQS and 2010 *draft* NNSWQS revisions.) In order to support the Navajo Nation's established ammonia standards, which vary with the pH of the effluent, pH monitoring is to be performed concurrently with ammonia monitoring.
6. **Temperature.** Also to support the Navajo Nation's established ammonia standards and their dependence on temperature, monthly monitoring for temperature is to be performed concurrently with ammonia monitoring.

## V. **Reporting**

The proposed permit requires discharge data obtained during the previous three months to be summarized on monthly DMR forms and reported quarterly. If there is no discharge for the month, report "C" in the No Discharge box on the DMR form for that month. These reports are due January 28, April 28, July 28, and October 28 of each year. Duplicate signed copies of these, and all other reports required herein, shall be submitted to the U.S. EPA and the Navajo Nation EPA.

## VI. **General Standards**

The proposed permit sets general standards that are narrative water quality standards contained in the Navajo Nation Water Quality Standards, Section 203. These general standards are set forth in Section B. General Discharge Specifications of the permit.

## VII. **Permit Reopeners**

- A. At this time, there is no reasonable potential to establish any other water quality-based limits. Should any monitoring indicate that the discharge cause, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to excursion above a water quality criterion, the permit may be reopened for the imposition of water quality-based limits and/or whole effluent toxicity limits. The proposed permit may be modified, in accordance with 40 CFR 122 and 124, to include appropriate conditions or effluent limits, monitoring, or other conditions to implement new regulations, including U.S. EPA-approved new Tribal water quality standards; or to address new information indicating the presence of effluent toxicity or the reasonable potential for the discharge to cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards.
- B. In accordance with 40 CFR 122.44(c), EPA may promptly modify or revoke and reissue any permit issued to a treatment works treating domestic sewage (including "sludge only facilities") to incorporate any applicable standard for sewage sludge use or disposal promulgated under section 405(d) of the CWA, if the standard for sewage sludge use or disposal is more stringent than any requirements for sludge use or disposal in the permit, or controls a pollutant or practice not limited in the permit.

### **VIII. Biosolids Requirements**

The permittee shall submit a report 60 days prior to disposal of biosolids. The report shall discuss the quantity of biosolids produced, the treatment applied to biosolids including process parameters, disposal methods, and, if land applied, analyses for Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Molybdenum, Nickel, Zinc, and Selenium, and organic-N, ammonium-N, and nitrate-N, all expressed in mg/kg biosolids on a 100% dry weight basis. The permittee shall comply with all standards for biosolids use and disposal at Section 405(d) of the CWA, and 40 CFR Parts 257, 258 and 503.

### **IX. Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat**

#### **A. Background:**

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 requires Federal agencies such as EPA to ensure, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), that any actions authorized, funded or carried out by the Agency are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or adversely modify or destroy critical habitat of such species.

Since the issuance of NPDES permits by EPA is a Federal action, consideration of a permitted discharge and its effect on any federally-listed species is appropriate. The proposed NPDES permit authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater to the Little Colorado River segment within the Navajo Nation, waters of the United States.

The information below is listed in the Navajo Nation's Department of Fish & Wildlife Natural Heritage Program (NHP) database. The FWS has deferred all of its survey and information collection in the Navajo Nation to the Navajo Nation NHP.

Based on information provided by the Navajo Nation NHP on April 11, 2012, NHP identified no federally-listed species or threatened species are known to occur on or near the project site in Cameron, Coconino County, Arizona.

#### **B. EPA's Finding:**

This permit authorizes the discharge of treated wastewater in conformance with the federal secondary treatment regulations and the Navajo Nation Surface Water Quality Standards. These standards are applied in the permit both as numeric and narrative limits. The standards are designed to protect aquatic species, including threatened and endangered species, and any discharge in compliance with these standards should not adversely impact any threatened and endangered species.

EPA believes that effluent released in compliance with this permit will have no effect on any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat that may be present in the vicinity of the discharge. The treatment facility has been in existence for some time, and no new construction or modifications will be made to it due to the proposed NPDES permit. Therefore, no requirements specific to the protection of

endangered species are proposed in the permit. EPA may decide that changes to the permit may be warranted based on receipt of new information. A re-opener clause has been included should new information become available to indicate that the requirements of the permit need to be changed.

**X. Administrative Information -- Public Notice, Public Comments, and Requests for Public Hearings**

In accordance with 40 CFR 124.10, public notice shall be given by the U.S. EPA Director that a draft NPDES permit has been prepared by mailing a copy of the notice to the permit applicant and other Federal and State agencies, and through publication of a notice in a daily or weekly newspaper within the area affected by the facility. The public notice shall allow at least 30 days for public comment on the draft permit.

In accordance with 40 CFR 124.11 and 12, during the public comment period, any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit, and may request a public hearing if no hearing has already been scheduled. A request for public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. In accordance with 40 CFR 124.13, all persons must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments supporting their position within thirty (30) days from the date of the public notice. Comments may be received either in person or mailed to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
NPDES Permits Office (WTR-5)  
Attn: Linh Tran  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Telephone: (415) 972-3511

Interested persons may obtain further information, including copies of the draft permit, fact sheet/statement of basis, and the permit application, by contacting Linh Tran (WTR-5) at the U.S. EPA address, above. Copies of the administrative record (other than those which U.S. EPA maintains as confidential) are available for public inspection between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays).

In accordance with 40 CFR 124.12, the U.S. EPA Director shall hold a public hearing when, on the basis of requests, a significant degree of public interest in the draft permit exists. The Director may also hold a public hearing when, for instance, such a hearing might clarify one or more issues involved in the permit decision. Public notice of such hearing shall be given as specified in 40 CFR 124.10.